

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend Claim 1 and add new Claim 9. The changes are shown with ~~strikethroughs~~ for deleted matter and underlining for added matter. A complete listing of the claims is set out below with proper claim identifiers.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of separating ergosterol from a solution containing ergosterol in water-insoluble organic solvent, which comprises supplying a trace amount of water to said solution and precipitating ergosterol, wherein the trace and an amount of water supplied is within such a range of amount that no phase separation to form two liquid phases occurs between the water-insoluble organic solvent and water, and the water insoluble organic solvent is aliphatic hydrocarbons, aromatic hydrocarbons, halogenated hydrocarbons or a mixture thereof.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the solution containing ergosterol in the water-insoluble organic solvent is a solution extracted from a microorganism containing the ergosterol using the water-insoluble organic solvent, or a solution obtained by extracting ergosterol from the microorganism using another solvent and then replacing said another solvent with the water-insoluble organic solvent.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to ~~any one of~~ claim 1, wherein the water-insoluble organic solvent is hexane, heptane, octane, or a mixture thereof.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to ~~any one of~~ claim 1, wherein the supplying water is conducted by continuously or intermittently moisturizing a gas phase portion within an apparatus for precipitating ergosterol.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the ergosterol is separated by precipitation as an aggregate having a crystallinity of 50% to 90%, and the crystallinity is an amount of crystal component in the aggregate by measuring water of hydration by thermogravimetric analysis.

7. (Previously Presented) An ergosterol aggregate having a crystallinity of 50% of to 90%, wherein the crystallinity is an amount of crystal component in the aggregate by measuring water of hydration by thermogravimetric analysis.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the ergosterol is precipitated by a cooling crystallization.

9. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the water insoluble organic solvent is hexane and the amount of water supplied is between 1 and 100 ppm with respect to the hexane.